

Remarks/Arguments


Claims 1-55 were pending in this application. Claim 1 stands allowed. Claims 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20, 23, 27, 31, 36, 37, 40, 41, 46 and 48 have been amended herein. Claims 7, 19, 26, 35, 47 and 51-55 have been canceled. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-25, 27-34, 36-46 and 48-50 will be pending. No additional fee is due at this time.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been allowed. Applicant further notes that claims 7-17, 19-22, 26-28, 35-45 and 47-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration and willingness to move this application forward towards allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-6, 18, 23-25, 29-34, 46 and 55-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,678,046 to Cahill et al. While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Applicant has amended independent claims 2, 18, 23, 31 and 47 to be commensurate with allowed dependent claims 7, 19, 26, 35 and 47, respectively, and the corresponding dependent claims have been canceled. Other dependent claims have been amended to adjust their dependencies as appropriate. Claims 51-55 have been canceled. Thus, only allowed or allowable claims remain in the application.

Applicant believes he has responded to all of the concerns raised by the Examiner, and placed the application in condition for allowance. Entry of this response and reconsideration of this application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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